

Postwar Jobs in Medical Occupations.—Students, teachers, parents and others interested in medical occupations will find helpful information in three new six-page Occupational Abstracts on Medicine, Nursing, and Medical Laboratory Technologist, just published by Occupational Index, Inc., New York University, New York 3, N. Y. at 25 cents each, or 75 cents for the three.

Each abstract covers the nature of the work, abilities and preparation required, entrance and advancement, earnings, number and distribution of workers, postwar prospects, advantages and disadvantages and sources of further information, including a select bibliography of the five best references.

DDT Products Loom Big For Post-War Households.—Development of DDT products for general household use as repellent of mosquitoes, flies and other pestiferous insects is viewed as an immediate post-war trend in the packaged medicine field by Dr. E. C. Merrill of the United Drug Company, Boston.

"Expansion of the insecticide field will be most important as a health factor," Dr. Merrill told the Office of Pharmacal Information. "From the world point of view of lives saved, the widespread public use of various combinations of dichloro-diphenyl-trichlorethane (DDT) will rival penicillin."

DDT is being released to industrial laboratories for experimental research. Dusting powders and sprays are most likely developments for home purposes. DDT is a potent drug and like many others its preparation and wholesale use requires considerable technical skill.

Latest release from the U. S. Department of Agriculture reporting results of two years tests with this chemical agent against more than 70 different species of insects showed it experimentally to be definitely more effective than those currently used for control of some 30 pests. Among the insects on which the tests were made were mosquitoes, bedbugs, three kinds of lice on man, and houseflies and fleas in buildings.

American College of Chest Physicians.—The Board of Examiners of the American College of Chest Physicians announce that the next written examination for Fellowship will be held at Chicago, June 6th. Candidates for Fellowship in the College who plan on taking the examination should contact the Executive Secretary of the American College of Chest Physicians, 500 North Dearborn Street, Chicago 10, Illinois.

Press Clippings.—Some news items from the daily press on matters related to medical practice follow:..

California Physicians' Service

San Francisco.—(U.P.)—The State Supreme Court today granted a hearing to Maynard Garrison, state insurance commissioner, who has made a three-year fight to have the California Physicians' Service placed under the commission's jurisdiction.

The State-wide service includes 5,000 physicians and members whose monthly dues cover any necessary medical care. The doctors' fees are paid from the Association's funds.

Garrison has held that the payment of dues in return for medical service is an insurance action and should be supervised by the commission.—*Santa Maria Times*, April 12.

More Doctors

Chicago, May 22.—The number of physicians in the United States increased by 3,306 in 1944, the American Medical Association reports. Many more than this number, however, were added to the armed forces as medical officers during the year, so there was a decrease in 1944 of the number of doctors available to civilians.

There were 6,933 additions to the medical profession in 1944. These were the men and women who in that year

received their first license to practice medicine and surgery. During the same year 3,627 physicians died.—*San Francisco News*, May 22.

Industrial Physicians' Association

Los Angeles, May 7.—(A.P.)—Dr. Richard O. Schofield of Sacramento has been elected president of the Western Association of Industrial Physicians and Surgeons, succeeding Dr. Rutherford T. Johnstone, Los Angeles.

Other officers chosen are Drs. John D. Ball, Santa Ana, Calif., vice president; Rodney R. Beard, San Francisco, secretary; J. M. McCullough, Crockett, treasurer, and Benjamin M. Frees, Los Angeles, Robert T. Legge, Berkeley, William P. Shepard, San Francisco, and A. C. Dick, San Diego, directors.—*Sacramento Bee*, May 7.

A.M.A. Journal Assails Veterans' Medical Care

Chicago, March 28 (A.P.)—Declaring that medical care for veterans appears "especially poor" compared with that in the armed forces, the *Journal of the American Medical Association* today suggested an independent investigation by a committee reporting directly to President Roosevelt.

"A continuous flow of charges comes from a variety of investigators, commentators, periodicals and publications whose observations have led them to believe that medical care in the Veterans' Administration is on a standard far lower than that prevailing in ordinary practice in the United States," the *Journal* said in an editorial.

"The deteriorated service seems especially poor when contrasted with the high quality of medical care rendered to those in the armed forces."

The *Journal* reviewed reports made by the U. S. Senate's subcommittee on wartime health and education and by newspapers and magazines and said:

"Perhaps the time is ripe for a really authoritative, independent investigation of the administration of medical service to veterans, made by a committee responsible directly to the Executive Office of the President."

The *Journal* reported that the charge has been made that the chief administrator of the Veterans' Administration has "little sympathy with a high quality of medical service" and commented:

"Although the administrator has full authority and adequate funds to avail himself of the very highest quality of consultation and part time services of leading physicians, the utilization has been minimal."

The editorial said veterans' hospitals are not accredited by the A.M.A. Council on medical education and hospitals as institutions suitable to the training of interns, by the council's standard.

"The proper development of the hospitals for veterans would lead, no doubt, in the future toward the utilization of veterans' hospitals for this purpose; this in itself would tend to raise greatly the standard of medical care," the *Journal* concluded.—*San Francisco Chronicle*, March 29.

Debt to Society

The well-worn phrase about "paying a debt to society" takes on new meaning in the case of the several hundred inmates of three prisons who have volunteered as "guinea pigs" in testing new drugs to combat malaria.

Their volunteer duty will extend beyond that of the soldiers who bared their arms to the anopheles mosquito in Walter Reed's search for the malaria carrier. For these men will not only contract the disease, but will submit to experiments with potential remedies whose properties and correct dosage are as yet imperfectly known.

If the tests are successful, malaria sufferers have promise not of the relief and control that quinine and atabrine bring, but of complete cure of this recurring disease. Most important, success will provide a remedy for thousands of soldiers who have contracted this painful, exhausting and sometimes fatal disease.

It is significant that these prisoners are promised nothing beyond the best of care. They are offered no special privileges, commutation of sentence, or other reward. They are simply in the best and truest sense paying their debt to society.—*San Jose Mercury Herald*, May 9.

Six Steps for the Future

Surgeon General Parran recently outlined six steps which must be taken to create a comprehensive national health program: (1) development of a financial scheme through insurance, tax funds or both, to pay costs of medical care for all, (2) grants-in-aid to states for construction of hospitals and health centers, (3) more educa-

tional facilities to train doctors, nurses, technicians to meet the expanded demand, (4) full-time health departments for every part of the country, with full programs of preventive activities, (5) continued support of public and private medical research, (6) provision of adequate water supply and sewerage systems for all.—Maternity Center Association "Briefs."

Proposed Change in California Adoption Laws

California law gives an unwed mother sole custody of her child, and the right to give it for adoption without notice to the father.

An amendment has passed the Assembly, and is in the Senate, to extend this right to a married woman who says that her husband is not the father of her child. She could then give the child for adoption without notice to the husband.

We believe this is a dangerous measure. An unwed mother owes responsibility to the child only, not to the father. But a married woman owes responsibility to her husband. Evidence of illegitimacy she might offer could be falsified more readily if the husband had no notice to contest the proceedings. Also, he has a right to know.

The measure does not mention servicemen overseas, but the times and the arguments urged for the proposal do imply that the purpose is to protect the peace of mind of fighting men against knowledge of wives' infidelity. The Army paper *Stars and Stripes* properly is indignant. We believe the measure is unwarranted meddling in personal affairs, whether the husband is a serviceman or a civilian away on a business trip.—Editorial in *San Francisco Chronicle*, June 7.

"Fatherless" Baby Bill Blasted by Army Paper

London, June 4.—(A.P.)—A bill pending before the California Legislature which would permit a faithless wife to arrange for the adoption of an illegitimate child, without notifying her husband, brought today from *Stars and Stripes* the editorial comment, "Well, we'll be damned."

"We thought professional handholders, social thinkers and screwball intellectuals who have been making capital of 'veterans' problems' had already gone far enough," the Army newspaper said, "but when a responsible legislative assembly passes a bill which denies a husband the right to know that his wife has just come up with some one else's baby, we think the whole situation is getting out of hand."

(The bill was passed by the California Lower House Saturday and is now before the Senate.)

"No sensible person will condone infidelity in the marriage partnership. Out of the millions of separated husbands and wives of World War II the majority are playing the game straight.

"Most of them, when they resume normal living, can look each other clearly in the eye without apology and go about the business of reweaving the fabric of their lives.

"Some, of course, will practice deceit. Others may make a clean breast of interim unfaithfulness. In either case it's a problem between a man and his wife and nobody else's business.

"But by all that's holy, let's not have a sovereign state joining in a lie as definite and indisputable as another man's baby.

"We may need handholding by the experts, but we don't need it that bad."

The editorial characterized the bill as "another indication of the growing tendency among a certain type of thinker to make of the overseas veteran a peculiar social problem who must be spared the realities and hand processed back into civil life upon his return."—*San Francisco Examiner*, June 5.

Loose Statements on Nation's Health Condemned by J.A.M.A.

Urges Better Scientific Evaluation of Facts Relating to Proposed Changes in Methods of Medical Practice

The use of propagandists of incomplete statements regarding various aspects of the nation's health in support of proposed changes in methods of medical practice is condemned by *The Journal of the American Medical Association* for April 28. The *Journal* says:

"Among the major annoyances to American physicians of the last decade have been the loose statements emanating from propagandists in support of proposed changes in methods of medical practice. The death rates in the United States, although they are among the lowest if not the lowest of any great nation in the world, are always

described as 'shocking' or 'amazing.' We are told again and again that one-third or more of American youths are physically unfit, but they never say physically unfit for what or by what standard. This type of viewing with alarm has now aroused the satire of a writer for the *New York Times*. He says in a recent issue that there is one indispensable rule for viewing with alarm and that is, when quoting, never to use conditional or supplementary clauses. His first example is a statement recently syndicated under a Washington date line: 'Only one American in a thousand is really well fed.' Now actually Americans are today about the best fed people in the world. This does not mean to say that the modern advances in the science of nutrition are universally applied. That will no doubt involve a long process of education. No one has yet discovered a technique for overcoming completely the cultural lag between the acquisition of knowledge and its extension to the remotest individual in the population. The truth about nutrition is expressed in the following, which is the whole sentence: 'Only one American in a thousand is really well fed, in the sense that no further improvement in his physical condition could be made by changes in his diet.'

"Innumerable Americans have been startled in the last three years by the amazing misuse of the statistics coming from the Selective Service System and repeatedly quoted by writers in the press and in the reports of various governmental committees. Even Senator Pepper's Interim Report of the Committee on Education and Labor of the U. S. Senate emphasized the statistics although they did use also the saving statement that we are not obviously a nation of weaklings. The writer for the *New York Times* calls attention to the statement 'Only one American in ten thousand can really be said to boast of a proper physique.' This is a startling indictment, but the sentence, to be finished honestly, must include the clause 'taking the Apollo Belvedere as a standard.' Scientific writers have emphasized again and again that the examination of millions of young men was conducted for a specific purpose—to obtain an army. Moreover, the standards of induction varied from time to time, beginning with an exceedingly high standard when we were concerned with the raising of an army of a million men for training and proceeding to a somewhat lower standard, involving the acceptance of men with manifest disabilities, when it became necessary to scrape the bottom of the barrel. Under the heading 'The Nation's Health' the *New York Times* commentator says:

That second example of what we may call the missing conditional clause is no doubt considerably exaggerated. But in kind if not in degree it is in the same class with so many statements about the positively frightening percentage of American school children who suffer from physical defects, said "defects" often consisting of troublesome tonsils or a couple of tooth cavities or three pounds under weight. It applies, though in less degree, to the large percentage of men disqualified for military service, where the emphasis on "military" is slighted and then entirely forgotten. We end up by speaking of the American nation as 25 per cent physically unfit.

"Similarly we must analyze more scientifically all of the figures now being developed relating to what are called neuropsychiatric disabilities or defects. Many experts are convinced that a large percentage of those who are classified neuropsychiatric under military conditions are able to live efficient, satisfactory lives as civilians in the occupations to which they are adapted. A psychologist has pointed out that the age of 16 years is taken as a maximum for mental sufficiency, so that we need not be alarmed if we are called a nation of 14 years old or 12 year old mentalities. If Thomas Jefferson and Winston Churchill are classified as 16's, the rest of us can be reasonably satisfied to be called 14's.

"Not every one is capable of evaluating scientifically the startling statements made by those who would strike fear as part of a propaganda to secure change. Quoting again:

... It is dynamic to say that Americans are really not well fed, if the plain duty of nutrition is to turn us all into Discus Throwers and Venus de Milos, into Johnny Weissmullers and Babe Dierdricksens.

The usual retort is that in order to get people to do things you must throw a scare into them. And yet President Roosevelt said that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself."

Bring me men to match my mountains,
Bring me men to match my plains,
Men with empires in their purpose,
And new eras in their brains.

—Sam Walter Foss, *The Coming American*.